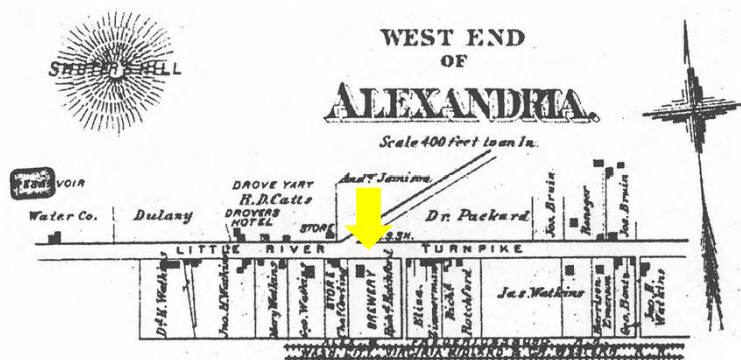


BREWING (& DRINKING) BEER IN  
HISTORIC WEST END VILLAGE



# FROM THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS

## BREWING (& DRINKING) BEER IN HISTORIC WEST END VILLAGE



Arrows mark Shuter's Hill Brewery on 1879 map of West End and Civil War-era photograph

### Artifact Group #1 "Robert Portner Brewing Company" Bottle and Ginger Ale Bottle

Glass and stoneware

Mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century

Excavated: Shuter's Hill/

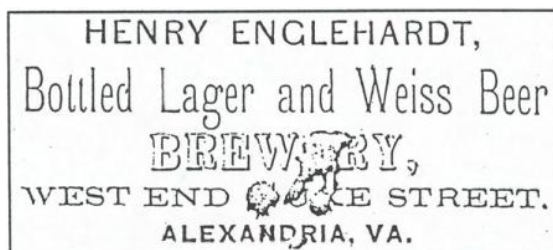
Englehardt's Brewery, 2016

Duke Street

In 1979, earthmoving during development of the Carlyle neighborhood in historic West End Village—Alexandria's first suburb—revealed the ventilation shaft of the lager vault of Shuter's Hill/Englehardt's Brewery, which opened in 1858. Archaeologists unearthed additional brewery and tavern remains (pictured below, left) and nearly 7,000 artifacts. Many related to the tavern: bottles bearing brewery names, such as "Robert Portner Brewing Company" (1868–1916), stoneware bottles for ginger ale or mineral water, and glass beer mugs and tumblers. This brewery was probably the earliest lager beer brewery in Virginia and the largest VA brewery of the Civil War period. Shuter's is one of a few American breweries with an intact mason beer cellar studied by archaeologists, the best preserved brewery site in Alexandria or even the region, and one of a few brewery sites in the country from pre-Civil War lager-brewing days.



Archaeological remnants  
of brewery and tavern



Henry Englehardt's 1876 business directory ad for his brewery

By May of 1868, German immigrants Henry Englehardt and Gottlieb Kaercher had opened a "biergarten" on King Street at the foot of Shuter's Hill. Beer gardens functioned as open-air taverns; patrons often brought their own food and purchased beverages. Some beer gardens served food, frequently offering salty fare intended to inspire the purchase of another round of drinks. While some beer gardens attracted gamblers and prostitutes, it is unknown what sort of clientele favored the Englehardt and Kaercher establishment. The beer garden did not last, but Englehardt is listed in the 1870 and 1871 Alexandria directories as having a tavern on Duke Street. Tavern and brewery closed in 1892. The vault, filled with concrete slurry, remains intact under the eastbound lanes of Duke Street.